GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2155
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
ANCIENT IDOLS STOLEN FROM TEMPLE
Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 53 Ancient idols worth Rs. 100 crore placed in a temple and been stolen from Hansi, Haryana recently.

(b) If so, whether any investigation has been made;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government of safeguard the ancient idols placed in the temples?

Answer

MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) According to the information furnished by the Haryana State Police, 32 Astadhatu Sculpture, 14 brass and 5 silver Panch Meru and 2 plates (Patra) made of Bronze (Kansa) were reported to be stolen from the Jain Temple, Hansi, Haryana on the intervening night of 25-26 October 2005. The value of the idols have not been assessed.

(b) & (c) A case has been registered vide FIR No. 401 dated 26.10.2005 under section & 457/380 IPC at City Police station, Hansi. The investigation has been taken up by the Hansi District Police.

(e) The idol theft has not occurred from any of the centrally protected monuments.

The District Police, Hissar has intensified day and night patrolling around the temples and other religious places.